

# HARDY AMERICAN RHODODENDRONS

RHODODENDRON  
PUNCTATUM,  
THE RAREST  
ALLEGHANIAN  
SPECIES

KALMIAS, AZALEAS AND OTHER  
RARE ERICACEÆ

HARLAN P. KELSEY  
BOSTON, MASS.



Trusses of *Rhododendron catawbiense* (true species) at Highlands Nursery,  
Kawana, North Carolina (3,800 feet elevation)

## THE TRUE *Rhododendron catawbiense* OF THE CAROLINA MOUNTAINS

### *The Hardest Rhododendron Known*

**I**T IS this magnificent Rhododendron that over a hundred years ago was introduced into Europe, supplying color and hardy blood to the cultivated "hybrids," but with a consequent loss of hardiness; and so today, for American gardens where ironclad hardiness is essential, we must turn to the true original species, found only on the highest, coldest peaks of the Southern Alleghenies.

Considering the extreme hardiness, color of flower, compact growth and remarkable texture of foliage, which is a deep shiny green and far superior to

the better known *Rhododendron maximum*, we can unhesitatingly recommend the native *Rhododendron catawbiense* as the finest of all Rhododendrons for general use, withstanding successfully exposure and extremes of temperature where other Rhododendrons fail.

Do not confuse this true species, which is absolutely hardy, with the common so-called catawbiense hybrid so freely imported from Europe, which is at best only half-hardy and, even when branched above, is a single grafted stem, showing bareness underneath for years.

Unlike *Rhododendron maximum*, it is a very free bloomer with foliage of a dark, rich, lasting green, which never rusts, as does maximum occasionally. The trusses are a bright red-purple, in marked contrast to the muddy purple of the semi-hardy half-breed imported variety noted above, and, as sent out by Highlands Nursery, they are always on their own roots.

For massing to produce a broad-leaved evergreen landscape effect there is no plant equal to it in the latitude of the northern United States and Canada, where strictly hardy plants must be employed.

For use as a rich finished border to plantations of the commoner *Rhododendron maximum* and *Kalmia latifolia*, the value of *Rhododendron catawbiense* cannot be overestimated.

It is with great pleasure we offer for the first time in America or abroad a complete stock of this rare Rhododendron in the true species, in sizes from small, stocky plants to large, bushy clumps for immediate effect.

We offer both transplanted clumps and those lifted with large balls from open ground, the price being the same, as both grow almost equally well where properly handled, the price depending on diameter, size and furnishings. Clumps often have 30 to 40 stems and are usually well budded.

Packing is done in boxes, or the larger sizes in crates, and plants are delivered free on board cars. I give estimates on freight charges gladly.

### Prices of *Rhododendron catawbiense*

Bushy, nursery-grown plants with balls.			
	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 9 inches . . . . .	\$0 25	\$1 50	\$12 00
9 to 12 inches . . . . .	35	2 50	20 00
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	60	4 00	35 00
Clumps, thick and bushy with balls, all very heavy, with diameter proportionate to height.			
6 to 9 inches . . . . .	60	4 00	35 00
9 to 12 inches . . . . .	75	5 00	45 00
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	1 00	7 50	65 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	1 75	15 00	125 00
2 to 3 feet . . . . .	3 00	25 00	200 00
3 to 4 feet . . . . .	6 00	50 00	450 00
4 to 5 feet . . . . .	10 00	90 00	

Extra-large selected clumps, \$12 to \$20 each, according to furnishings.

*Do not compare our many-stemmed clumps with the single-stemmed "bushy" half-hardy Rhododendrons offered by importers. There is no comparison.*



# Rhododendron punctatum (PINK LAUREL)

This is the smallest Southern Alleghanian species, and is very rare. A graceful shrub with spreading branches and dark green, narrow leaves, covered below with rusty dots. The rose-colored or pink blossoms are borne in profusion in June. Beautiful for rocky slopes, as it stands exposure unusually well.



A clump of *Rhododendron punctatum*

	Each	Per 10
Strong plants, 6 to 9 inches . . . . .	\$0 20	\$1 75
Strong plants, 9 to 12 inches . . . . .	35	2 50
Clumps, 9 to 12 inches . . . . .	60	4 00
Clumps, 1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	1 00	7 00
Clumps, 1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	1 50	12 50

# Kalmia latifolia

## THE MOUNTAIN LAUREL

ONE of the grandest of our native broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, often attaining tree-like proportions in our southern mountains. In cultivation it is a broad, thick shrub, and when in full bloom is of surpassing beauty. The wheel-shaped flowers are set in close corymbs on the ends of the stems, pure white to pink, and appear in May or June in such profusion as to almost smother the foliage. Its thick, shiny leaves are conspicuous the year round, making it a shrub of greatest value for massing, and giving a striking evergreen effect. The hardiness of *Kalmia latifolia* is beyond doubt, it being found sparingly in Nova Scotia and increasing in abundance through New England and the middle Atlantic States (particularly in the higher latitudes) till the crest of the Southern Alleghanies is reached, where, in the true American home of the broad-leaved *Ericaceæ*, perfect conditions of soil and climate are found, producing such a luxuriance of growth as to form veritable jungles of gorgeous beauty, miles in extent.



*Kalmia latifolia* at the water's edge



*Kalmia latifolia* in full bloom

### *Prices of Kalmia latifolia*

	Each	Per 10	100
Bushy plants, 3 to 6 inches . . . . .	\$0 10	\$0 75	\$5 00
Bushy plants, 6 to 9 inches . . . . .	15	1 00	8 00
Bushy plants, 9 to 12 inches . . . . .	25	1 75	12 00
Bushy plants, 1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	35	2 50	18 00
Bushy plants, 1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	75	5 00	40 00
Clumps, 9 to 12 inches . . . . .	50	3 25	30 00
Clumps, 1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	1 00	6 00	50 00
Clumps, 1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	1 50	12 00	100 00
Clumps, 2 to 3 feet . . . . .	3 00	25 00	175 00

Collected clumps, 1 to 4 feet high, and corresponding diameter, 50c. to \$10 each.  
By the car-load, \$110 to \$200 per car. Write for special information.



A small corner of Highlands Nursery in the high Carolina mountains



# Rhododendron maximum

## THE GREAT AMERICAN ROSE BAY

*It is perfectly hardy in the latitude of Quebec*

THE use of large native Rhododendrons and Kalmias (often "collected" clumps) for producing immediate, finished, broad-leaved, evergreen effects, is so well established as to scarcely need comment. There is no other possible way to obtain the results to be had by the use of these magnificent hardy evergreens. Our facilities for growing and collecting are approached by none, and the quality of stock we handle cannot be duplicated, while the hundreds of car-loads of our plants now growing and flourishing on many of the leading estates and public parks in America conclusively show the value of our nineteen years' experience in growing and handling Hardy American Rhododendrons and other native plants exclusively.

Not even in Asia do Rhododendrons grow so luxuriantly as in our own Southern Alleghany Mountains, where they attain a height of 30 feet and more, assuming tree-like proportions. They must be seen in their native lavishness of growth and bloom, on the mountain sides or hanging over the dashing ice-cold streams and water-falls, to be properly appreciated, and a trip to the high Carolina Mountains in spring and early summer is a never-to-be-forgotten series of joys to the lover of nature.

With proper knowledge and experience, much of this beauty and wildness may be transferred to our gardens and lawns.

Hundreds of thousands of the best and most beautiful of our Hardy Rhododendrons, Azaleas and other native trees, shrubs, vines, ferns and flowering plants have been brought together at Highlands Nursery, on the crest of the Southern Alleghanies, nearly 4,000 feet elevation, where nature has provided a soil and climate where they luxuriate as nowhere else in the world.

Here almost 100 acres are devoted exclusively to preparing these floral treasures for safe removal to our lawns and woodlands, to be enjoyed throughout the seasons by those who will. A beautiful catalogue filled with original half-tones and engravings tells of these "wild" things, and will be sent free to those who ask for it.

*Rhododendron maximum* is without doubt the noblest of American broad-leaved shrubs, and is found growing sparingly in New England and New York, more abundant in the Pennsylvania Mountains, but reaching perfection only in the Southern Alleghany Mountains, where it grows in such luxuriance as to form a striking feature in the mountain landscape. Its large waxy white or delicately pink flowers appear in large trusses in July, the latest of all the Rhododendrons, greatly enhancing its ornamental value as a broad-leaved evergreen for finished landscape effect.

Our nursery-grown stock of *Rhododendron maximum* includes over 50,000 bushy plants and clumps with balls, while we collect car-load lots of large clumps from special sources in the Pennsylvania Mountains and the Carolina Mountains. Prices per car-load of *Rhododendron maximum* vary with size and grade. For plantations where large quantities are required a mixed grade of sizes, two to six or eight feet, may well be used, at a rate of \$100 per car, packed ready for shipment. Special freight rates.

BHL



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H.P. NELSEY

*Rhododendron maximum*, Great American Rose Bay

Nature's planting on banks of a mountain brook



## RHODODENDRON MAXIMUM

Where extra selection is made, prices are \$110 to \$150 per car; the freight to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and similar points is \$27 to \$40 per car from Pennsylvania sources. Number of plants to the car varies from forty or fifty to several hundred, according to size and grade.

We ship car-load lots from Pennsylvania to northern points only to save freight charges, and our stock is unequaled elsewhere. Information to meet unusual conditions gladly given, and special prices are made on large requirements.

### *Prices of Rhododendron maximum by the plant*

All are bushy and with balls.

	Each	Per 10	100
3 to 6 inches . . . . .	\$0 15	\$0 75	\$5 00
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	20	1 50	10 00
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	35	3 00	20 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	50	4 00	35 00
Clumps, 6 to 12 inches . . . . .	50	3 50	25 00
Clumps, 1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	75	5 00	45 00
Clumps, 1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	1 25	10 00	90 00
Clumps, 2 to 3 feet . . . . .	2 00	18 00	160 00
Clumps, 3 to 3½ feet . . . . .	4 00	28 00	225 00

Extra heavy specimen clumps, any size, are charged for according to diameter and grade. A two-foot clump may often be furnished better even than a specimen six-foot clump. We send out no poor stock.

Collected clumps, two to eight feet high, from 50 cts. to \$20 each, according to size and furnishings.



*Rhododendrons growing at Highlands Nursery*



*Azalea lutea (calendulacea)*, Great Flame Azalea

## Hardy American Azaleas

And a few other

### Rare Plants for the Rhododendron Bed

THE American Azaleas are among the choicest of all ornamentals, whether exotic or native, and were but rarely seen in cultivation before being disseminated by Highlands Nursery. Large masses of "Great Flame-colored Azalea," *A. lutea (calendulacea)*, when seen in flower, present the most gorgeous effects, in shades varying from deep crimson to a bright sulphur-yellow. The complete hardiness of all the species we offer is unquestionable. The foliage of *A. arborescens* is the finest of all Azaleas, remaining a clear, shiny green throughout the summer, a characteristic not usual with this family. The large white, sweet-scented flowers appear the last of all the Azaleas, and the numerous pink-tipped stamens protruding give a most beautiful effect. *Azalea vaseyi* is one of the finest introductions of late years, the white to deep pink flowers appearing before the foliage in April in the greatest profusion. *A. nudiflora* and *A. viscosa* are pretty dwarf varieties, very useful in the undershrubbery.

Azaleas are seen at their best when planted in large masses and in properly prepared beds, and they richly repay any unusual care given them. Like most ericaceous plants, they love deep, moist, well-drained soil, and these showy native species are particularly adapted to planting in shrub borders and with Rhododendrons, their brilliant blossoms being set off by a background of dark foliage. Azaleas can be successfully grown almost anywhere, even in the north middle states if excavations are made and proper soil with abundant humus is filled in, say two to three feet or more deep, and preferably a northern exposure chosen with shade. The mulching should be left on during the summer to decay, and a fresh application made every autumn.





*Azalea arborescens*, Fragrant Tree Azalea  
Photographed in Franklin Park, Boston, from stock supplied by Highlands Nursery



## HARDY NATIVE AZALEAS

Our cold Carolina mountains have added no more beautiful plants to gardens than these American Azaleas, not even excepting the magnificent broad-leaved evergreen Rhododendrons of world-wide fame.

**AZALEA arborescens.** Fragrant White Azalea. In June the delightfully spicy fragrant white flowers appear in profusion, lasting for weeks. Becomes a spreading clump three to six feet broad in cultivation; easy culture. The leaves often color striking shades of red in late autumn.

	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 30	\$2 50	\$20 00
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	45	4 00	35 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	65	6 00	50 00

**A. arborescens rosea.** A beautiful and rare form, with bright pink fragrant flowers. Introduced by Highlands Nursery. Stock limited and orders filled in rotation only. Small plants, \$4 each.

**A. lutea (calendulacea).** Great Flame Azalea. The most regal of all the species, native or exotic, and a noble representative of our rich Carolina Mountain flora. Bartram, speaking of it in his "Travels," calls it the "fiery Azalea," and says: "This epithet *fiery* I annex to this most celebrated species of Azalea as being expressive of the appearance of its flowers, which are in general of the color of the finest red lead, orange and bright gold as well as yellow and cream-color. This is certainly the most gay and brilliant flowering shrub yet known."

	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 20	\$1 50	\$12 50
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	30	2 00	18 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	40	3 00	25 00
2 to 3 feet . . . . .	75	5 00	45 00
3 to 4 feet . . . . .	1 50	12 00	110 00

**A. nudiflora.** Pinxter Flower. Smaller species, with showy deep pink flowers in April and May, while quite bare of leaves. Stands sun and exposure well.

	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 20	\$1 50	\$12 50
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	35	3 00	25 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	50	4 00	35 00
2 to 2½ feet . . . . .	75	6 00	50 00

**A. vaseyi.** Southern Azalea. April and May. This elegant and showy Azalea was only discovered as late as 1878, and introduced by Highlands Nursery very soon after. The most profuse bloomer of all the native species. Flowers pink or deep rose-colored. Foliage deep crimson in autumn.

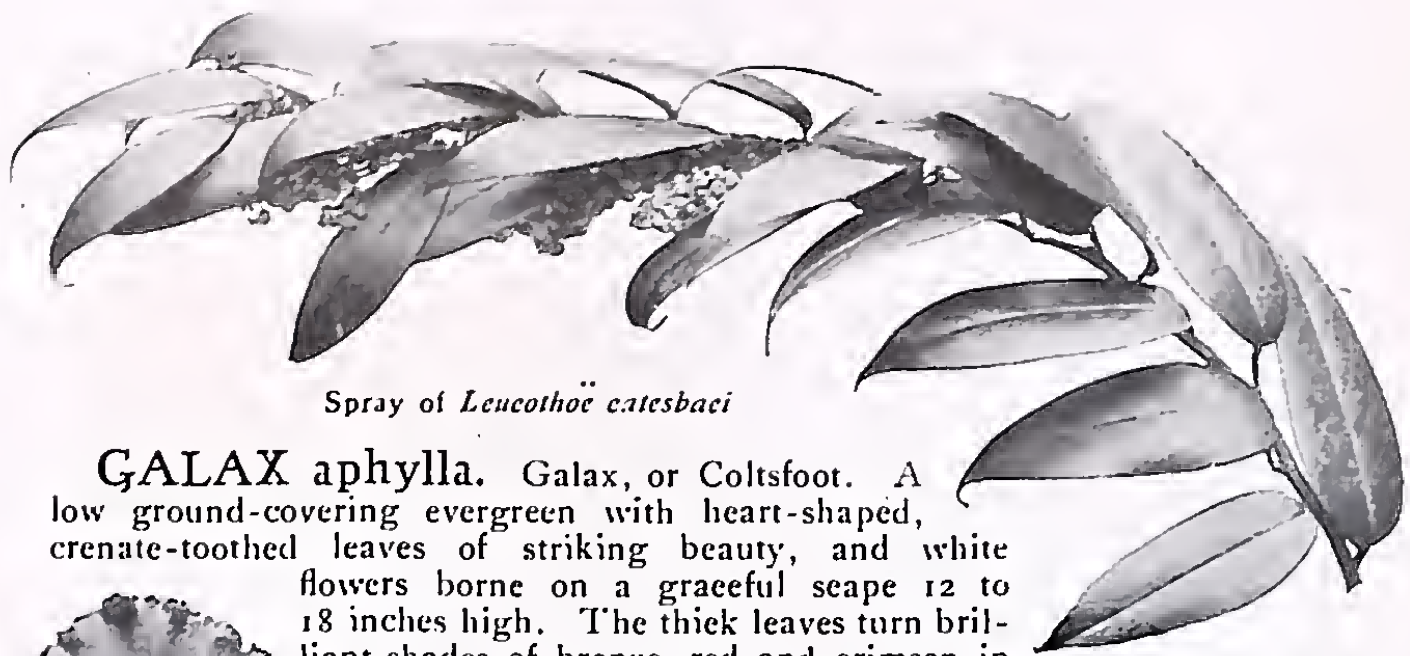
	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 25	\$2 00	\$15 00
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	35	3 00	25 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	45	3 75	30 00
2 to 3 feet . . . . .	75	7 00	60 00

**A. viscosa.** Early White Azalea. A late-blooming species with small, white, fragrant flowers in June and July. Azaleas do well along the water's edge, and arborescens and viscosa love moisture.

	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 15	\$1 25	\$10 00
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	25	2 00	18 00
1½ to 2 feet . . . . .	35	3 00	25 00

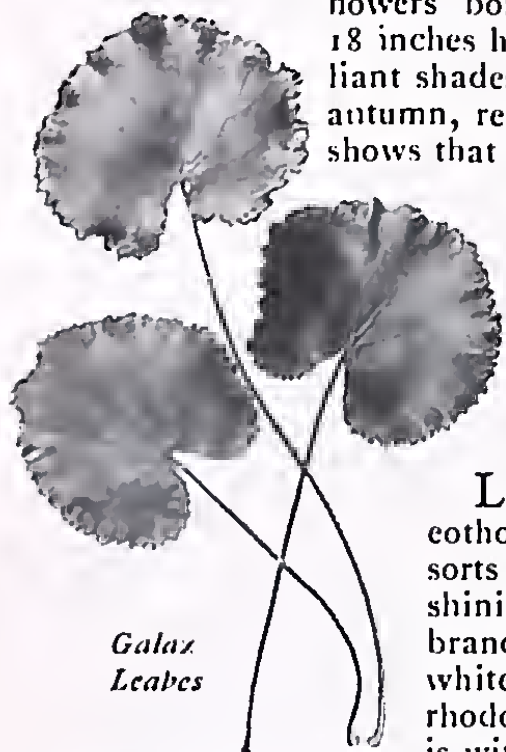
**RHODORA canadensis.** Rhodora. Of the Azalea family and no less showy than some of its species. The purplish rose-colored flowers are borne in profusion in May or June. Forms thick clumps and flourishes in very moist situations. A most dainty and elegant shrub.

	Each	Per 10
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 20	\$1 75
1 to 1½ feet . . . . .	40	3 00



Spray of *Leucothoe catesbaei*

**GALAX** *aphylla*. Galax, or Coltsfoot. A low ground-covering evergreen with heart-shaped, crenate-toothed leaves of striking beauty, and white flowers borne on a graceful scape 12 to 18 inches high. The thick leaves turn brilliant shades of bronze, red and crimson in autumn, remaining so through the winter. A careful estimate shows that nearly 70,000,000 Galax leaves were used for decorations last season. A remarkable ground-covering plant, particularly for use in the rhododendron bed.



Galax  
Leaves

	Each	Per 10	100
Established clumps . . . . .	\$0 30	\$2 00	\$18 00
Collected clumps . . . . .	20	1 75	10 00

Special prices by the thousand for large plantings.

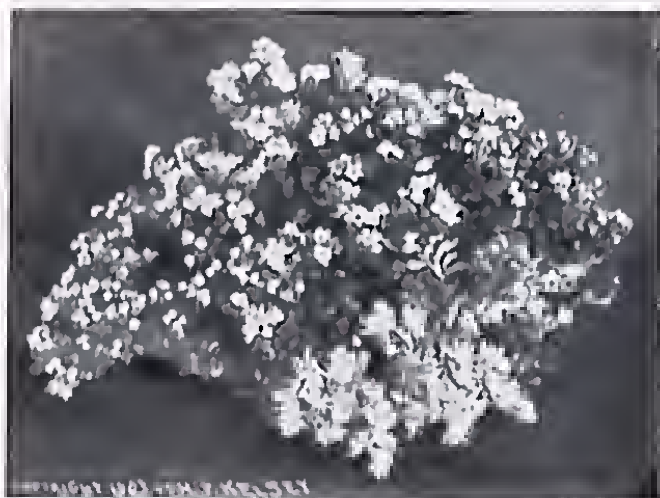
**GALAX LEAVES.** Brilliant green and bronze, for decorating. \$5 per 1,000, postpaid; \$3 per 1,000, by express.

**LEUCOTHOE** *catesbaei*. Catesby's *Leucothoe*. Few, if any shrub evergreens of the broad-leaved sorts have the grace and elegance of this one. The thick shining green leaves are evenly disposed on long, recurved branches along which the dense racemes of beautiful white bell-shaped flowers hang. As an undershrub for rhododendrons or for banks and borders of streams it is without a rival. The sprays make beautiful winter decorations indoors and turn a rich bronze in the fall where exposed to the sun.

	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches . . . . .	\$0 15	\$1 00	\$8 00
1 to 1 1/2 feet, clumps . . . . .	50	4 00	35 00

	Each	Per 10	100
1 1/2 to 2 feet, clumps . . . . .	\$0 75	\$6 00	\$50 00
2 to 3 feet, clumps . . . . .	1 00	8 00	70 00

SPRAYS, by express, not prepaid, \$1.50 per 100.



*Dendrium prostratum*

**DENDRIUM** (*Leiophyllum*) *prostratum*. Mountain Heath. The Carolina Mountain prostrate form of this beautiful genus. A most elegant rockwork evergreen, closely covering the surface with a bed of green. When in full bloom in May or June it produces a wonderfully showy effect. The delicate flowers are often tinged with pink. Plant in edge of rhododendron bed.

	Each	Per 10	100
Clumps . . . . .	\$0 20	\$1 50	\$10 00
Heavier clumps . . . . .	35	3 00	25 00



## XANTHORRIZA

*apiifolia*. Yellow - Root. Undoubtedly the finest American deciduous undershrub for planting under trees, along roadways, walks and borders, or where conditions of extreme moisture prevail. Finely cut foliage remains a good green till autumn, when it turns shades of orange and yellow. Now used by thousands in parks and private grounds. Peculiar brown - purple flowers in pendulous racemes, appearing early with the leaves. For "filling-in" Rhododendron beds or any shrub plantings and where a permanent and beautiful edging or fringe



*Xanthorrhiza apiifolia*  
as an edging for kalmias

is desired, there is no plant to take its place. The photograph shows a planting of this beautiful shrub in Salem, Mass.

	Each	Per 10	100
6 to 12 inches, clumps . . . . .	\$0 25	\$1 50	\$10 00
12 to 18 inches, clumps . . . . .	50	3 00	20 00



*Hardy Ferns*

**HARDY FERNS.** Many varieties are at home and thrive in the Rhododendron bed, and the graceful dainty fronds make a beautiful border. They aid in conserving moisture and keep the ground cool. Many rare species are offered in our large illustrated catalogue. Fine selection, \$1 per 10, \$8 per 100.

**BICUCULLA (Dicentra) eximia.** Mountain Bleeding Heart. This exquisite little herbaceous perennial is added to the list of plants for the Rhododendron bed to supply variety in color and leafage to the border.

The feathery light green leaves are delicately divided, the clumps completely filling up spaces and producing charming rose-colored flowers from early spring until frost. We cannot recommend it too highly.

	Each	Per 10
Clumps . . . . .	\$0 20	\$1 50
Clumps, heavier . . . . .	40	3 00

For LILIUMS, TRILLIUMS, VINCAS, and other plants for the Rhododendron bed, write for full catalogue beautifully illustrated with original half-tones of native flowers.



*Bicuculla eximia*





*Azalea (Rhododendron) vaseyi*. Introduced by Highlands Nursery. Delicate white to deep pink



# TO THE TRADE.

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SPECIAL WHOLESALE PRICES WILL BE MADE ON

## HARDY RHODODENDRONS, AZALEAS AND OTHER PLANTS

offered in the accompanying list in car lots to the trade, or 25% on other prices.

A complete Wholesale Catalogue will be sent on application.

Highlands Nursery in the high Carolina Mountains is the original introducer of Hardy Native American Plants, and now has nearly one hundred acres in cultivation of the choicest Hardy Native Trees, Shrubs, Ferns, Vines, Bulbs and Herbaceous Perennials, many new and rare, where the soil and climate is unequalled for producing strong and hardy growth.

Our facilities for growing Rhododendrons, Kalmias and other broad-leaved evergreens are not approached elsewhere, our sources of supply being exclusive and covering the best sections of the entire country. Parks, Cemeteries, Landscape Architects and Nurserymen are supplied in any quantities at low prices.

Fall planting gains time, and we strongly recommend it.

PROPRIETOR  
HIGHLANDS NURSERY  
3800 FEET ELEVATION  
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HARLAN P. KELSEY,  
BEACON BUILDING,  
BOSTON, MASS.